I was asked by the American Ambassador two or three weeks ago to visit the United States of America as a quest of the United States Administration for sixty days. The purpose of the invitation is to make an opportunity available for studying the American Administration and Congress at first-hand, to learn how their policies are formulated and put into effect.

This is a wonderful opportunity and a most generous invitation. I have not been able to say anything about it until the present, because on the American side various formalities had had to be completed.

It has been suggested I should go to the United States as soon as possible before the two political parties there became completely immersed in their own presidential conventions and elections. Once this happened it would be more difficult to speak to the most appropriate people in Washington. For this reason I will be leaving Australia in the first half of May and would return in the last half of July.

I am going to use the trip to make as many contacts as possible in the American Administration and in Congress, in particular amongst those people concerned with foreign policy and defence because these are the two items of American policy which most closely affect Australia. However, if time is available I hope to see something of large-scale American farming operations. In particular I hope there would be an opportunity to see something of the quality of American beef herds and to examine the organization of the American beef industry, which is quite different from ours.

If possible I would like to visit Alaska on my return, because in many respects the problems of this territory are not unlike the problems of the Australian north. While Alaska is cold and northern Australia is hot there is still the same difficulty of a relative lack of resources compared to different parts of the country, and a very definite lack of population. I believe it would be most interesting to see how the Americans were tackling these problems, as there could be some lessons to be learned that may be useful to us.

The Canadian High Commissioner has also asked me to visit Ottawa for two or three days so that contacts could be made there, again specially in the fields of foreign policy and defence. A visit to Ottawa could also be helpful in getting an insight into financial arrangements between Canada and the United States because their connection in this field had gone much further than Australia's and there may well be valuable lessons to be learned so far as Australia’s future economic relationships with other countries are concerned.

The visit should be most useful in making valuable contacts in both countries, but particularly in the United States, which may well be of great benefit in the future.

Shortly I will make known the arrangements I intend to make concerning the proper management of any electoral matters which may arise while I am away so that if anyone has a particular problem which in any way concerned the Commonwealth it will still be dealt with promptly.
Author/s: Fraser, Malcolm

Title: Visit to the United States

Date: 26 April 1964

Persistent Link: http://hdl.handle.net/11343/40118

File Description: Visit to the United States

Terms and Conditions: Copyright courtesy of Malcolm Fraser. Contact the University of Melbourne Archives for permission requests.